Filipino leaders, and which caused the removal of many judges. Presumably there were proven charges against these judges of which the public knew nothing, but if so the investigations were star-chamber conducted, with the result that much dissatisfaction was exhibited.

Fortunately the Supreme Court has proved a jealous defender of judicial independence. Two celebrated cases decided by that Court boldly announced to all concerned that meddling in judicial matters by outsiders would not be tolerated. I am pleased to be able to record that I had the honor of writing the majority decisions in both instances. Without thought of intruding too much of legal history, let me tell you briefly of these cases.

Andres Borromeo had been duly appointed and commissioned judge of first instance of the twenty-fourth judicial district comprising the Provinces of Surigao and Misamis. For six years he acted as judge in those provinces, but through his unbending character offended the local politicians. Accordingly, he was appointed to another district, an appointment which he consistently declined to accept. The Supreme Court, to the amazement of everyone, sustained the "fighting judge," as Judge Borromeo had come to be called, on the ground that a judge of first instance can be made a judge of another district only with his consent. In its broader aspects the decision rested on the fundamental conception of an independent, fearless, and incorruptible judiciary.[2] Not long after, Judge Borromeo was treacherously

assassinated as he and others attempted to arrest a band of malefactors. It is a satisfaction to note that the Constitution of the Philippines provides that no judge appointed for a particular district shall be designated or transferred to another district without the approval of the Supreme Court.

The ruling in the Borromeo case did not sit well with the Philippine Legislature. So a law was passed which provided

[2]**Borromec v. Mariano (1921), 41 Phil. 322.**